

# Commander's Call Topics



**March 11, 2011**

*"The Air Force is charting a path in building a sense of community. That sense of community is larger than just the fence line. It runs out into the neighborhoods and the businesses. It's a part of being in that community and making a difference, and that the community has a desire to give back to the military in return."*

– Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James Roy during a [visit](#) to F.E. Warren AFB, Wyo.

## **FROM AIR FORCE SENIOR LEADERS**

### **[SecAF visits Moody AFB, observes combat capabilities](#)**

Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley visited Moody AFB, Ga., to observe the base's "Attack, Rescue, Protect" mission and the resources needed to accomplish it.

### **[CSAF visits Whiteman AFB, addresses changes](#)**

During a visit to Whiteman AFB., Mo., Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz reviewed the capabilities and readiness of this Air Force Global Strike Command base. General Schwartz also discussed force management, repeal of the law commonly known as "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," and instituting resiliency programs to help Airmen better handle life's stresses.

## **CURRENT ISSUES**

### **[Panel recommends ways to improve military diversity](#)**

The [Military Leadership Diversity Commission](#) has issued their [final report](#) with 20 recommendations its members say will make the military better reflect the composition of the United States in its ranks. This includes a [recommendation](#) to rescind the policy that prevents women from being assigned to ground combat units below the brigade level.

## **PERSONNEL ISSUES**

### **[Officials announce reduction-in-force eligibility criteria](#)**

A quality-based reduction-in-force board will convene Sept. 19 for mid-grade officers as part of the measures to meet the service's congressionally authorized military end-strength levels. The board will consider majors and captains in the following year groups and competitive categories: line of the Air Force: 2000 and 2003 through 2005; judge advocate general: 1999 through 2003; chaplain: 2002 through 2005; biomedical sciences corps: 2000 and 2001; and medical service corps: 2001, 2004 and 2005. Officers have until March 31 to apply for VSP at 1.25 times the involuntary separation pay rate.

### **[Some prior service officers eligible to retire early](#)**

New legislation gives the Air Force the ability to allow most prior service officers the option to retire with eight rather than 10 years of active commissioned service. Most officers in the line of the Air Force, judge advocate general, chaplain, biomedical science corps and medical service corps competitive categories are eligible. Additional program eligibility and information will be sent out from the Air Force Personnel Center.

## **GUARD AND RESERVE**

### **[Air Force Reserve legislative goals presented on Capitol Hill](#)**

"Force readiness, force rebalance, and force support" are the three top legislative priorities unveiled by Lt. Gen. Charles E. Stenner Jr., chief of Air Force Reserve, to congressional staffers.

## **CIVILIANS**

### **Course readies civilians for overseas deployments**

The [Civilian Expeditionary Workforce's](#) predeployment course aims to equip civilians with the skills needed to successfully support combat and humanitarian missions in Afghanistan, Iraq and other locations around the world. This once-a-month training course runs the gamut from military familiarization to cultural sensitivities to dealing with the stressors of war.

## **FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY**

### **Stay TRICARE eligible: Keep DEERS up-to-date**

Beneficiaries who have recently experienced a life changing event, such as the birth or adoption of a child, or recent divorce or marriage, should immediately record these changes in the [Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System](#), or DEERS. If they wait, their TRICARE benefit coverage could be affected.

## **RESOURCES**

### ***AF.mil***

<http://www.af.mil>

### ***Airman magazine***

<http://www.airmanonline.af.mil/>

### ***Air Force Community***

<http://www.afcommunity.af.mil/>

### ***Air Force Outreach***

<http://www.afoutreach.af.mil/>

### ***Military OneSource***

<http://www.militaryonesource.com/>

### ***Military HOMEFRONT***

<http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil/>

### ***Air Force Personnel Center***

<https://gum-crm.csd.disa.mil/app/home>

<http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/>

### ***Air Reserve Personnel Center***

<http://www.arpc.afrc.af.mil/>

### ***Department of Defense***

<http://www.defense.gov>

### ***Department of Defense News***

<http://www.defenselink.mil>

### ***TRICARE***

<http://www.tricare.mil>

### ***U.S. Government Web site***

<http://www.firstgov.gov/>

### ***Employment Opportunities***

[www.usajobs.com](http://www.usajobs.com)

[www.nafjobs.org](http://www.nafjobs.org)

## AIR FORCE HERITAGE TO HORIZONS

### This Week in Air Force History

**March 11, 1912** – Lt. Frank P. Lahm opened an Army Air School at Fort William McKinley, Philippines, with two volunteer students, Lt. Moss L. Love and Cpl. Vernon L. Burge, who later became the first enlisted pilot.

**March 12, 1998** – A C-141 from the 445th Airlift Wing, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, landed at Randolph AFB, Texas, with more than 50 former U.S. prisoners of war for Operation Homecoming's silver anniversary. On Feb. 12, 1973, the same C-141 airlifted Americans from Gia Lam Airport, Hanoi, North Vietnam on the first mission to repatriate American servicemen from Southeast Asia. The Starlifter took the men to Randolph AFB, for the 25th annual "Freedom Flyers" reunion.

**March 17, 1971** – Jane Leslie Holley became the first woman commissioned through the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps program. She graduated from Auburn University in Alabama.

**March 17, 1981** – Douglas Aircraft Co. delivered the first KC-10A Extender tanker/cargo aircraft to Strategic Air Command.

**March 17, 1997** – Air Force Special Operations Command provided a joint task force with MC-130 aircraft and MH-53 helicopters to evacuate U.S. citizens and other foreigners from Zaire due to an outbreak of civil unrest. By late March, the special operation effort had moved 532 passengers in 57 missions. To assist, Air Mobility Command dispatched C-5s, C-17s, C-141s and KC-135s. By April 17, AMC had flown 115 missions, carrying 1,200 passengers and 2,400 short tons of cargo.

For more information on Air Force heritage, visit <http://www.airforcehistory.af.mil>.

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